



Profile Report - State

Graduating Class 2020
Public High School Students
South Dakota



New to your 2020 Profile Report

Upon registration, students are now given the option to select gender values that include Male, Female, Another Gender, and Prefer Not to Respond. With this change, ACT Profile Reports will report outcomes for Males, Females, and those students providing Other Responses.

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We are pleased to provide this 2020 Graduating Class ACT Profile Report. This report summarizes the preparation and performance of your 2020 graduates who took the ACT as sophomores, juniors, or seniors under standard- or extended-time conditions and achieved a college reportable composite score. The most recent set of test information is used in your report for students testing more than once.

This report focuses on:

Performance - student test performance in the context of college readiness

Access - number of your graduates exposed to college entrance testing and the percent of race/ethnicity participation

Course Selection - percent of students pursuing a core curriculum

Course Rigor - impact of rigorous coursework on achievement

College Readiness - percent of students meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores in each content area

Awareness - extent to which student aspirations match performance

Articulation - colleges and universities to which your students send test results

Each year, test data for a school, district, and the state represents a different cohort of students. ACT encourages educators to focus on trends (3, 5, 10 years), not year-to-year changes. Such changes can represent normal – even expected – fluctuations. On the other hand, trend lines offer more insight into what is happening in a school, district, or the state.

Furthermore, ACT encourages educators to measure student performance in the context of college readiness measures. The focus should be on the number and percentage of students who met or exceeded ACT's College Readiness Benchmark Scores, a measure that is much more meaningful and understandable than an average composite score for a group of students.

The ACT is a curriculum-based measure of college readiness. ACT components include:

- Tests of academic achievement in English, math, reading, science, STEM, and (optional) ELA and writing
- High school grade and course information
- Student Profile Section
- Career Interest Inventory

The ACT:

Every few years, ACT conducts the **ACT National Curriculum Survey** to ensure its curriculum-based assessment tools accurately measure the skills high school teachers teach and instructors of entry-level college courses expect. The ACT is the only college readiness test designed to reflect the results of such a survey.

ACT's **College and Career Readiness Standards** are sets of statements intended to help students, parents and educators understand the meaning of test scores. The standards relate test scores to the types of skills needed for success in high school and beyond. They serve as a direct link between what students have learned and what they are ready to do next. The ACT is the only college readiness test for which scores can be tied directly to standards. College and Career Readiness Standards to the Classroom interpretive guides can be found at www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html.

Only the ACT reports **College Readiness Benchmark Scores** – A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science, Biology, STEM and ELA. These scores were empirically derived based on the actual performance of students in college.

College Course/Course Area	ACT Score	Benchmark Score
English Composition	English	18
Algebra	Mathematics	22
Social Sciences	Reading	22
Biology	Science	23
STEM	STEM	26
ELA	ELA	20

For more information, go to www.act.org

How to Improve Scores and Increase College Readiness

31% of your students met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores (Table 1.1). To improve students' scores and increase the percentage of students identified as college ready, ACT suggests:

PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO TAKE THE ACT: 5,277 of your students are included in this report (the 'cohort'). Increasing access insures that more students have the opportunity to consider college and allows the reader to use this report to evaluate how well courses and instructional programs are preparing students for college and work.

MAKING CORE CURRICULUM A PRIORITY: Emphasize the need for all students to develop college and work ready skills, regardless of postsecondary aspirations. 85% of the students in the cohort reported taking courses that would be considered 'Core or More' (Table 1.4).

MAKING SURE STUDENTS ARE TAKING THE RIGHT KINDS OF COURSES: Table 3.8 reports 3% of the cohort took less than three years of math courses. Of these students, 12% were college ready. 14% of the cohort reported taking a course sequence of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. 18% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 58% of the students who took 3 or more years of math beyond Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry were college ready. Getting more students ready for Algebra prior to 9th grade will increase the chances that students will be prepared for and take advanced-level math courses.

Similarly, Table 3.8 reports 5% of the cohort took less than three years of natural science courses. 30% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 46% of students who took at least three years of science coursework were college ready.

EVALUATING RIGOR OF COURSES: Table 3.1 reports the percentage of students falling in each of the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards score ranges. For example, approximately 40% of the cohort fall into the lowest three Mathematics score ranges. To increase these students' achievement, identify the standards they should focus on next by accessing ACT's College and Career Readiness Standards at www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html.

PLAN GUIDANCE ACTIVITIES BASED ON STUDENTS' CAREER AND COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS: Data in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 enable the reader to determine if aspirations are consistent with academic performance and whether, among students with similar aspirations, academic performance is consistent across racial/ethnic groups.

For more information on interpreting data in this report, or to learn how ACT can help your students improve their readiness for college and the workplace, contact ACT Customer Service at 319-337-1365 or customerservices@act.org.

Section I

Executive Summary

Figure 1.1. Average Composite Scores: 5 Years of Testing*

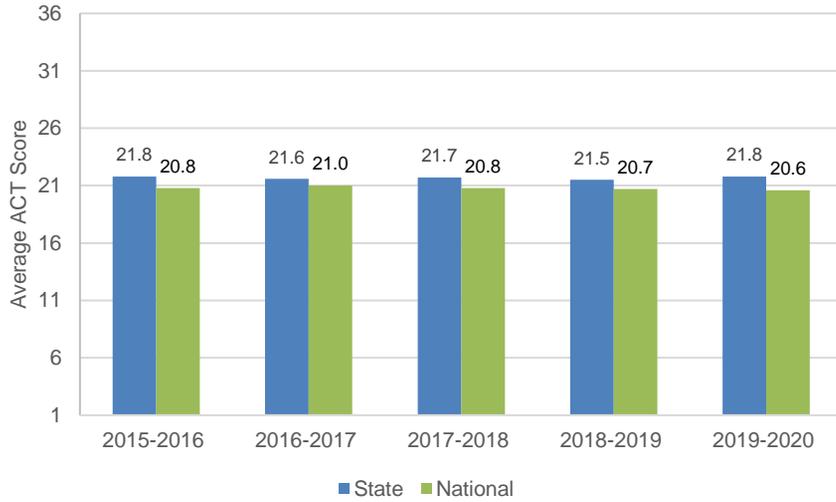


Figure 1.2. Percent Meeting 3 or 4 Benchmarks: 5 Years of Testing*

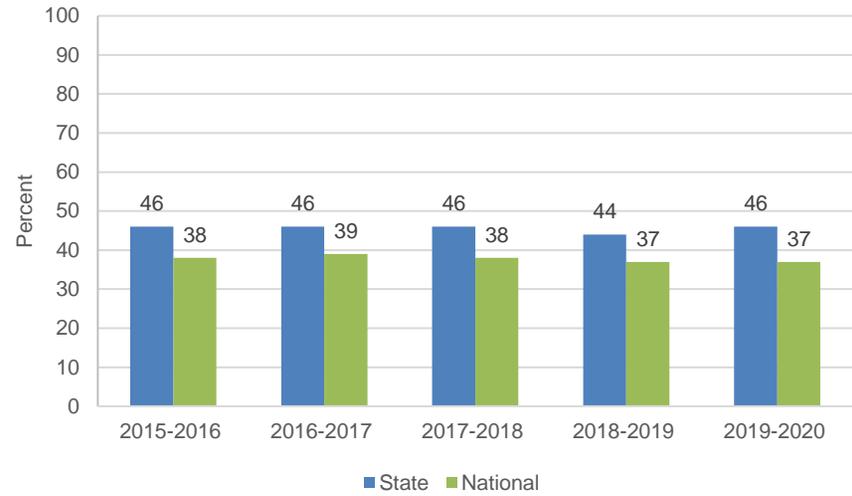


Figure 1.3. Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark: 5 Years of Testing*

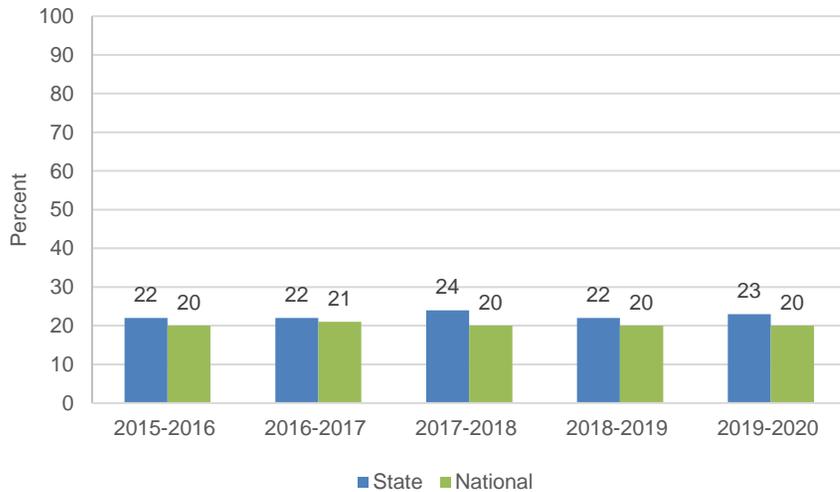
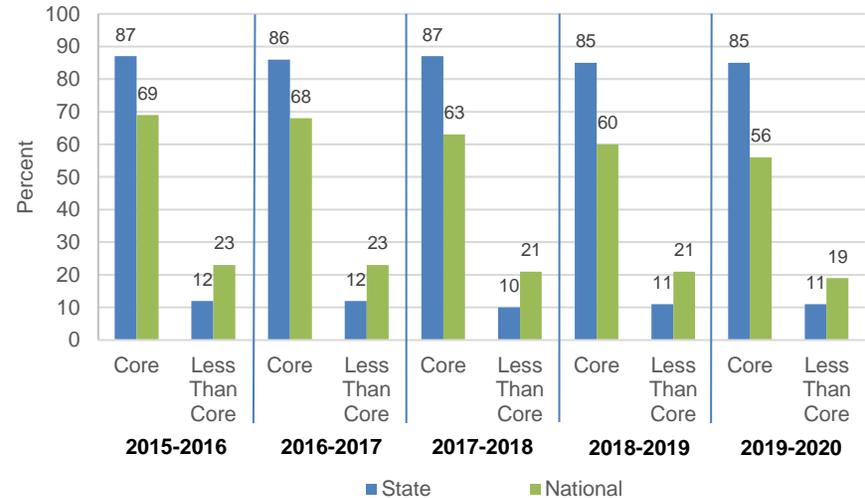


Figure 1.4. Percent Taking A Core Curriculum: 5 Years of Testing*



* Missing columns in above graphs reflect years in which no students were tested.

Table 1.1. Five Year Trends—Percent of Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmarks

Year	Number of Students Tested		Percent Who Met Benchmarks									
	State	National	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Met All Four	
			State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National
2016	5,941	2,090,342	69	61	50	41	52	44	44	36	32	26
2017	6,027	2,030,038	67	61	48	41	53	47	45	37	32	27
2018	6,078	1,914,817	67	60	49	40	52	46	46	36	31	27
2019	5,707	1,782,820	65	59	46	39	51	45	44	36	29	26
2020	5,277	1,670,497	67	58	49	37	53	45	44	36	31	26

Table 1.2. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores

Year	Number of Students Tested		Average ACT Scores									
	State	National	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
			State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National
2016	5,941	2,090,342	20.6	20.1	21.5	20.6	22.3	21.3	22.1	20.8	21.8	20.8
2017	6,027	2,030,038	20.5	20.3	21.4	20.7	22.1	21.4	21.9	21.0	21.6	21.0
2018	6,078	1,914,817	20.6	20.2	21.5	20.5	22.2	21.3	22.1	20.7	21.7	20.8
2019	5,707	1,782,820	20.4	20.1	21.2	20.4	22.1	21.2	21.8	20.6	21.5	20.7
2020	5,277	1,670,497	20.7	19.9	21.6	20.2	22.4	21.2	22.0	20.6	21.8	20.6

Table 1.3. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores Nationwide

Year	Number of Students Tested	Average ACT Scores				
		English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
2016	2,090,342	20.1	20.6	21.3	20.8	20.8
2017	2,030,038	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
2018	1,914,817	20.2	20.5	21.3	20.7	20.8
2019	1,782,820	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6	20.7
2020	1,670,497	19.9	20.2	21.2	20.6	20.6

Table 1.4. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores by Level of Preparation

Year	Number of Students Tested		Percent ²		Average ACT Scores									
	Core or More ¹	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
					Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core
2016	5,153	688	87	12	21.1	17.9	22.0	19.0	22.7	19.8	22.4	19.7	22.2	19.3
2017	5,176	694	86	12	21.1	17.7	21.9	19.0	22.6	19.5	22.4	19.7	22.1	19.1
2018	5,295	607	87	10	21.1	17.8	22.0	19.2	22.6	20.0	22.5	19.9	22.2	19.3
2019	4,879	646	85	11	20.9	18.1	21.6	19.1	22.5	20.2	22.2	19.9	21.9	19.4
2020	4,495	605	85	11	21.2	18.5	22.0	19.7	22.8	20.5	22.4	20.2	22.2	19.9

¹"Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

²Percent of all students tested. Numbers will not add up to 100% due to student non-response.

Table 1.5. Five Year Trends—Percent and Average Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
	N	%	Avg												
All Students	5,941	100	21.8	6,027	100	21.6	6,078	100	21.7	5,707	100	21.5	5,277	100	21.8
Black/African American	85	1	18.6	106	2	18.1	104	2	18.0	111	2	17.8	86	2	17.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	419	7	16.4	467	8	16.2	400	7	16.0	477	8	15.9	240	5	16.4
White	4,717	79	22.5	4,734	79	22.4	4,743	78	22.5	4,345	76	22.4	4,311	82	22.3
Hispanic/Latino	209	4	20.0	213	4	19.7	269	4	19.5	226	4	19.8	202	4	20.4
Asian	93	2	20.8	77	1	21.3	89	1	20.3	86	2	21.2	90	2	21.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	6	0	18.3	3	0	14.0	5	0	17.2	1	0	13.0	2	0	14.0
Two or more races	269	5	20.6	266	4	20.5	295	5	20.9	283	5	20.6	222	4	20.7
Prefer not to respond/No response	143	2	21.9	161	3	21.0	173	3	21.0	178	3	21.7	124	2	21.8

Table 1.6. Five Year Trends—Achievement in STEM¹

Year	All Tested Students						Students Meeting STEM Benchmarks			
	Number of Students Tested		Avg. STEM Score		Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark		Avg. Mathematics Score		Avg. Science Score	
	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National
2016	5,941	2,090,342	22.1	20.9	22	20	27.9	28.7	28.3	28.6
2017	6,027	2,030,038	21.9	21.1	22	21	27.8	28.7	28.2	28.7
2018	6,078	1,914,817	22.1	20.9	24	20	27.9	28.8	28.4	28.8
2019	5,707	1,782,820	21.7	20.7	22	20	28.0	28.9	28.5	29.0
2020	5,277	1,670,497	22.0	20.6	23	20	28.0	28.9	28.3	29.1

¹The STEM score describes students' overall proficiency in mathematics and science.

Table 1.7. Proficiency In Understanding Complex Texts¹

Year	Text Complexity Proficiency Level																	
	Below Proficient						Proficient						Above Proficient					
	N		Percent		Avg. Reading		N		Percent		Avg. Reading		N		Percent		Avg. Reading	
State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	
2016	2,000	485,762	34	23	17.6	17.0	1,374	322,548	23	15	23.5	23.6	799	235,380	13	11	29.5	30.3
2017	2,656	999,708	44	49	17.2	16.2	2,097	596,096	35	29	23.5	23.4	1,255	427,075	21	21	30.2	30.8
2018	2,865	1,010,339	47	53	17.5	16.3	1,988	492,937	33	26	23.8	23.6	1,225	411,541	20	21	30.6	31.0
2019	2,714	950,826	48	53	17.3	16.2	1,753	455,611	31	26	23.6	23.6	1,240	376,383	22	21	30.4	31.0
2020	2,387	903,921	45	54	17.5	16.1	1,629	398,982	31	24	23.5	23.6	1,261	367,594	24	22	30.3	31.1

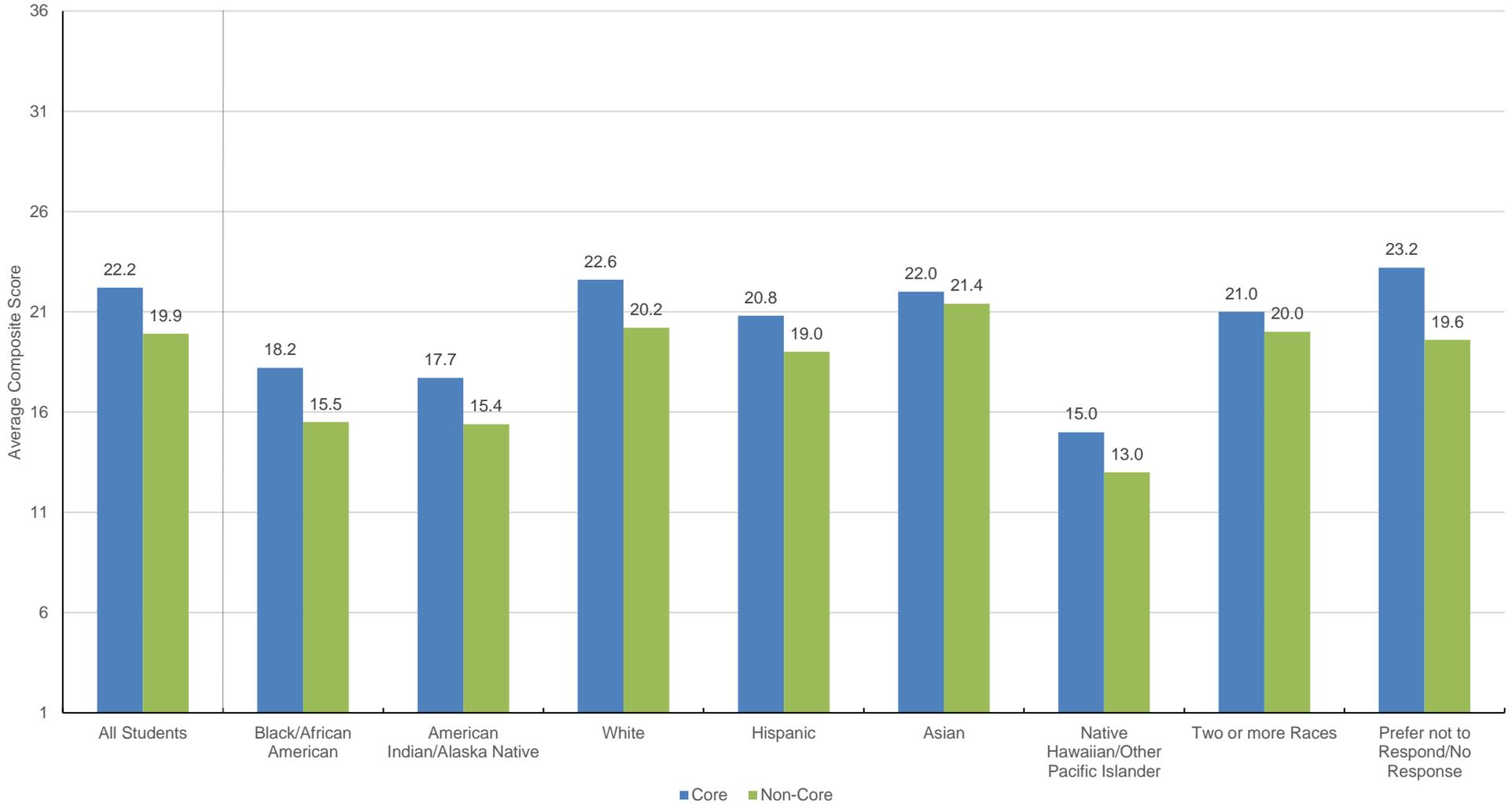
¹The text complexity indicator, beginning in Fall 2015, represents students' progress toward understanding complex written material often encountered in college and careers.

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Section II

Academic Achievement

Figure 2.1. Average ACT Composite Scores by Race and Core Curriculum Status*



*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and core course-taking status in which one or both indicators are missing.

Table 2.1. ACT Score Distributions, Cumulative Percents (CP¹), and Score Averages

ACT Scale Score	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite		STEM		ELA ²		ACT Scale Score
	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	
36	35	100	10	100	78	100	24	100	3	100	10	100	0	100	36
35	72	99	18	99	85	99	30	99	19	99	17	99	0	100	35
34	69	98	26	99	137	97	49	99	27	99	26	99	1	100	34
33	69	97	41	99	125	94	67	98	56	99	43	99	7	99	33
32	92	95	44	98	137	92	64	97	78	98	51	98	11	99	32
31	71	94	53	97	146	89	82	96	100	97	88	97	23	97	31
30	89	92	108	96	160	87	78	94	130	95	101	96	23	93	30
29	83	91	129	94	47	84	121	93	116	92	129	94	32	90	29
28	122	89	205	92	181	83	145	90	200	90	181	91	28	84	28
27	103	87	260	88	198	79	177	87	215	86	256	88	26	80	27
26	182	85	355	83	149	75	210	84	241	82	292	83	21	76	26
25	240	81	382	76	266	73	346	80	309	78	369	77	29	72	25
24	324	77	361	69	338	68	510	74	367	72	397	70	36	68	24
23	321	71	349	62	330	61	427	64	334	65	379	63	47	62	23
22	336	65	255	56	429	55	428	56	410	58	376	56	55	54	22
21	451	58	233	51	305	47	459	48	384	51	414	49	51	46	21
20	358	50	326	46	299	41	385	39	414	43	381	41	39	38	20
19	297	43	311	40	377	35	425	32	390	36	441	33	38	31	19
18	234	37	360	34	318	28	321	24	400	28	385	25	37	25	18
17	238	33	481	27	276	22	276	18	321	21	363	18	23	19	17
16	377	28	472	18	198	17	259	12	282	14	277	11	23	16	16
15	339	21	282	9	216	13	114	7	216	9	142	6	26	12	15
14	242	15	160	4	182	9	106	5	144	5	89	3	15	8	14
13	175	10	35	1	121	6	72	3	67	2	45	1	21	5	13
12	112	7	15	1	106	3	42	2	36	1	15	1	6	2	12
11	126	5	3	1	38	1	35	1	14	1	8	1	4	1	11
10	76	2	3	1	22	1	12	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	10
9	24	1	0	1	6	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
8	6	1	0	1	6	1	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	8
7	13	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	7
6	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	6
5	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	5
4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Avg (SD)	20.7 (5.9)		21.6 (4.9)		22.4 (6.1)		22.0 (4.9)		21.8 (4.9)		22.0 (4.6)		22.2 (5.3)		Avg (SD)

¹ CP is the cumulative percent of students at or below a score point.

² ELA scores are derived only for students with a valid writing score.

Note: Shaded portions of columns identify the students who met/exceeded the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores.

Figure 2.2. English Reporting Categories

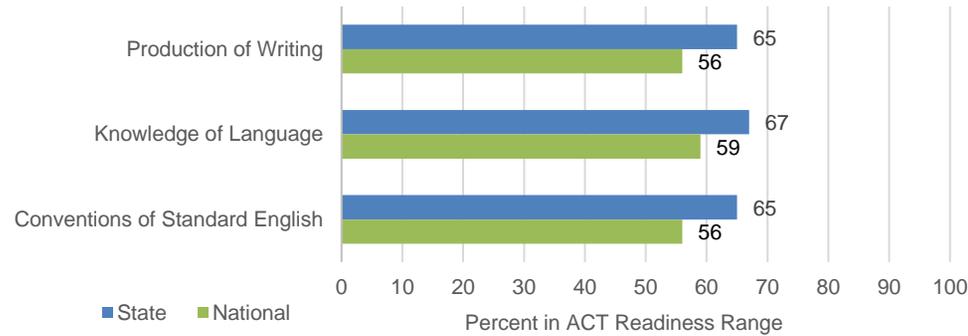


Figure 2.3. Math Reporting Categories

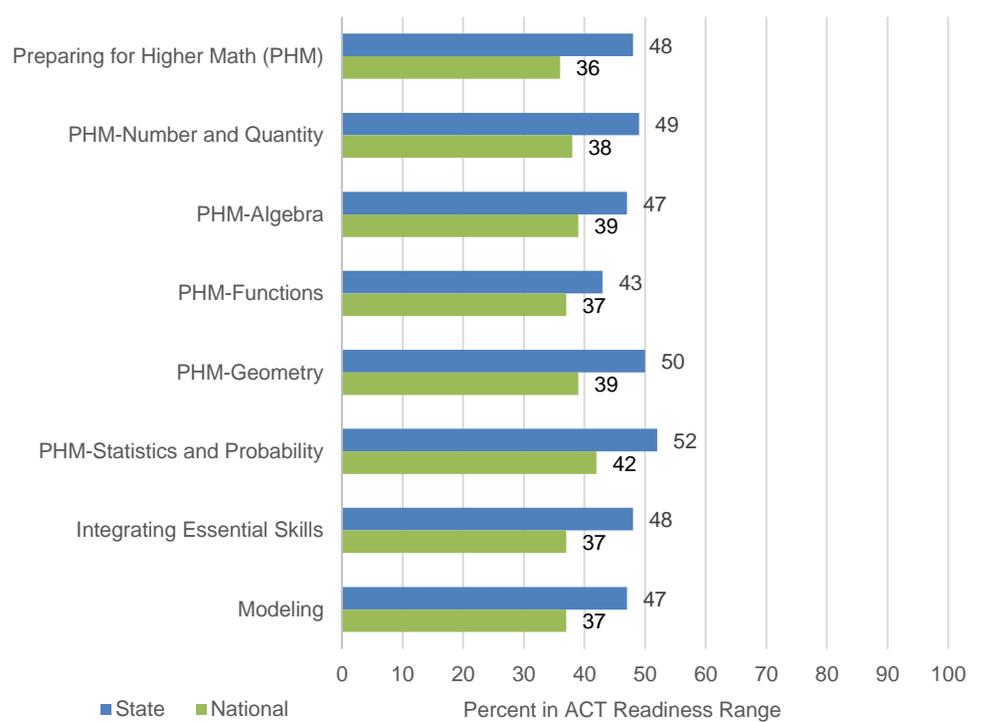


Figure 2.4. Reading Reporting Categories

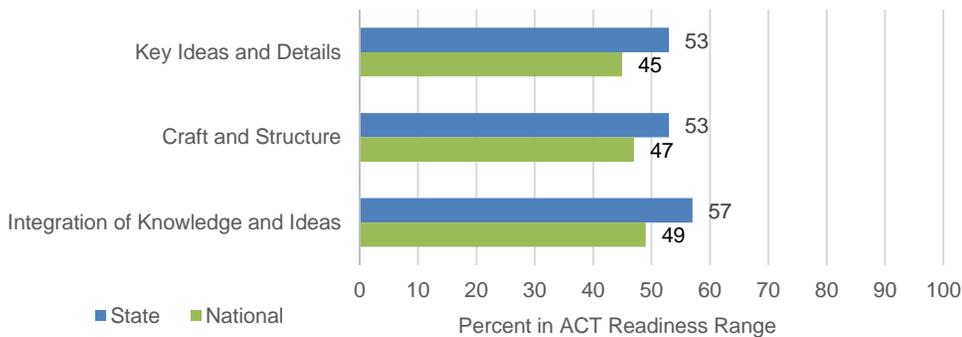
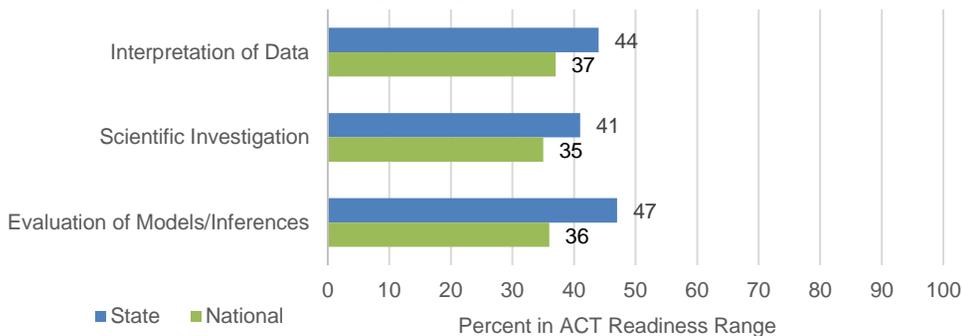


Figure 2.5. Science Reporting Categories



The charts on this page show the percent of students whose reporting category scores fall within associated ACT Readiness Ranges. ACT Readiness Ranges reflect where a student who has met a particular subject area's ACT College Readiness Benchmark would typically perform within the associated reporting category.

Table 2.2. Average ACT Composite Scores for Race/Ethnicity by Level of Preparation

Student Group	Race/Ethnicity	Number of Students Tested	Percent Taking Core or More ¹	Average ACT Composite Score	
				Core or More	Less Than Core
State	All Students	5,277	85	22.2	19.9
	Black/African American	86	80	18.2	15.5
	American Indian/Alaska Native	240	60	17.7	15.4
	White	4,311	88	22.6	20.2
	Hispanic/Latino	202	83	20.8	19.0
	Asian	90	87	22.0	21.4
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	50	15.0	13.0
	Two or More Races	222	82	21.0	20.0
	Prefer not/No Response	124	60	23.2	19.6
National	All Students	1,670,497	56	22.3	19.2
	Black/African American	203,517	51	17.9	15.9
	American Indian/Alaska Native	14,597	45	18.1	16.1
	White	860,496	61	23.4	20.4
	Hispanic/Latino	277,796	54	20.0	17.5
	Asian	78,707	71	26.1	23.5
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4,726	45	19.6	16.6
	Two or More Races	76,782	57	22.5	19.5
	Prefer not/No Response	153,876	28	23.2	18.8

¹ "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

Table 2.3. Average ACT Scores by Race/Ethnicity

Student Group	Race/Ethnicity	N	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
State	All Students	5,277	100	20.7	21.6	22.4	22.0	21.8	22.0
	Black/African American	86	2	16.2	17.5	17.8	18.7	17.7	18.4
	American Indian/Alaska Native	240	5	14.3	16.5	17.5	16.8	16.4	16.9
	White	4,311	82	21.3	22.1	22.9	22.4	22.3	22.5
	Hispanic/Latino	202	4	19.0	20.1	21.4	20.5	20.4	20.6
	Asian	90	2	20.5	22.3	22.0	22.0	21.8	22.4
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	0	12.5	15.5	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.0
	Two or More Races	222	4	19.4	20.3	21.5	20.8	20.7	20.8
	Prefer not/No Response	124	2	20.5	21.3	22.9	22.1	21.8	21.9
National	All Students	1,670,497	100	19.9	20.2	21.2	20.6	20.6	20.6
	Black/African American	203,517	12	15.6	16.7	17.0	16.9	16.7	17.0
	American Indian/Alaska Native	14,597	1	15.2	16.9	17.2	17.1	16.7	17.2
	White	860,496	52	21.5	21.4	22.7	21.9	22.0	21.9
	Hispanic/Latino	277,796	17	17.4	18.5	19.0	18.7	18.5	18.8
	Asian	78,707	5	24.5	25.2	24.8	24.5	24.9	25.1
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4,726	0	16.3	17.8	17.8	17.7	17.5	18.0
	Two or More Races	76,782	5	20.2	20.3	21.7	20.8	20.9	20.8
	Prefer not/No Response	153,876	9	18.8	19.5	20.3	19.7	19.7	19.9

Table 2.4. Average ACT Composite Scores for Gender by Level of Preparation

Student Group	Gender ¹	Number of Students Tested	Percent Taking Core or More ²	Average ACT Composite Score	
				Core or More	Less Than Core
State	Males	2,259	85	22.4	20.1
	Females	3,008	85	22.1	19.7
	Other Responses	10	60	23.0	25.0
National	Males	773,062	53	22.5	18.8
	Females	863,356	59	22.2	19.5
	Other Responses	34,079	11	20.2	17.4

Table 2.5. Average ACT Scores by Gender

Student Group	Gender ¹	N	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
State	Males	2,259	43	20.3	22.3	22.2	22.5	22.0	22.7
	Females	3,008	57	21.0	21.0	22.5	21.6	21.6	21.5
	Other Responses	10	0	22.3	20.3	22.1	22.5	21.9	21.7
National	Males	773,062	46	19.3	20.6	20.8	20.7	20.5	20.9
	Females	863,356	52	20.5	20.0	21.6	20.5	20.8	20.5
	Other Responses	34,079	2	16.8	17.8	18.2	18.0	17.8	18.1

Table 2.6. ACT Score Quartile Values

Quartile	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Q3 (75th Percentile)	24	25	26	25	25
Q2 (50th Percentile)	21	21	22	22	21
Q1 (25th Percentile)	16	17	18	19	18

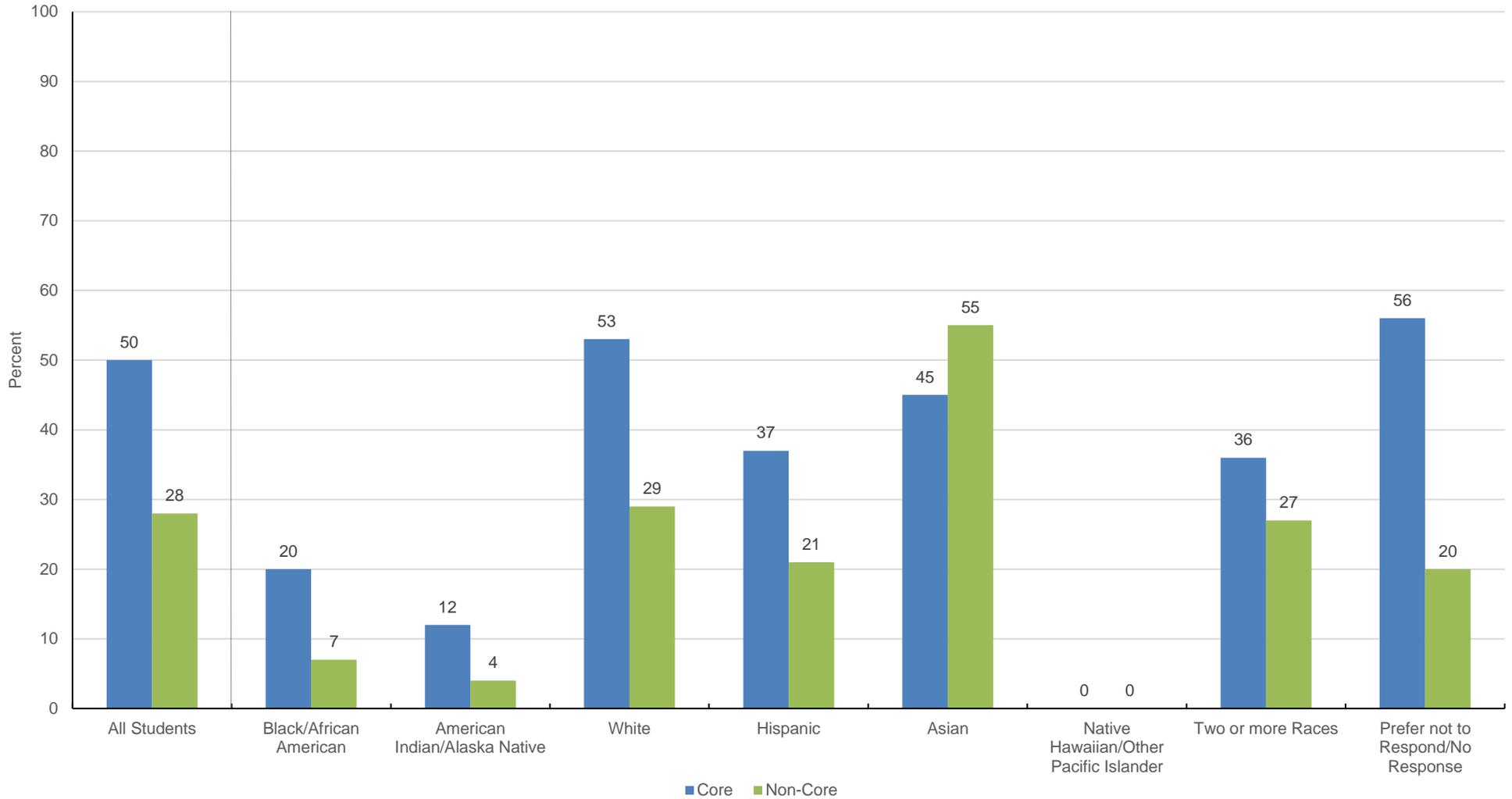
¹ 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

² "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

Section III

College and Career Readiness and the Impact of Course Rigor

Figure 3.1. Percent of Students Meeting 3 or 4 College Readiness Benchmarks by Core College Curriculum Status*



*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and core course-taking status in which one or both indicators are missing.

Table 3.1. Percent of Students in College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) Score Ranges

Student Group	CCRS Range	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
State	33 to 36	245	5	95	2	425	8	170	3
	28 to 32	457	9	539	10	671	13	490	9
	24 to 27	849	16	1,358	26	951	18	1,243	24
	20 to 23	1,466	28	1,163	22	1,363	26	1,699	32
	16 to 19	1,146	22	1,624	31	1,169	22	1,281	24
	13 to 15	756	14	477	9	519	10	292	6
	01 to 12	358	7	21	0	179	3	102	2
National	33 to 36	128,776	8	53,713	3	154,645	9	73,974	4
	28 to 32	140,249	8	149,659	9	192,435	12	131,409	8
	24 to 27	214,082	13	287,846	17	213,955	13	287,207	17
	20 to 23	348,288	21	257,908	15	357,401	21	397,814	24
	16 to 19	283,787	17	548,665	33	334,911	20	448,915	27
	13 to 15	271,234	16	343,986	21	235,025	14	204,649	12
	01 to 12	284,081	17	28,720	2	182,125	11	126,529	8

Table 3.2. Percent of Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Gender

Student Group	Gender ¹	Percent of Students				Met All Four
		English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	
State	Males	65	55	52	48	34
	Females	69	45	54	41	29
	Other Responses	60	40	40	40	40
National	Males	54	40	42	38	27
	Females	62	36	47	35	25
	Other Responses	39	19	27	20	12

¹ 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

Table 3.3. Percent of Students Who Met ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Race/Ethnicity

Student Group	Race/Ethnicity	N	English %	Mathematics %	Reading %	Science %	All Four %	STEM %
State	All Students	5,277	67	49	53	44	31	23
	Black/African American	86	33	16	26	16	8	7
	American Indian/Alaska Native	240	22	9	20	9	4	4
	White	4,311	72	53	56	48	33	24
	Hispanic/Latino	202	56	36	45	34	21	15
	Asian	90	62	54	46	42	36	31
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Two or More Races	222	58	39	47	34	24	14
	Prefer Not to Respond	124	64	48	52	42	35	27
National	All Students	1,670,497	58	37	45	36	26	20
	Black/African American	203,517	30	12	19	12	6	4
	American Indian/Alaska Native	14,597	28	13	20	13	7	4
	White	860,496	69	46	54	45	33	25
	Hispanic/Latino	277,796	43	24	31	22	14	10
	Asian	78,707	77	69	64	61	52	48
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4,726	35	20	25	18	12	9
	Two or More Races	76,782	60	37	47	37	26	20
	Prefer Not to Respond	153,876	49	32	39	31	23	19

Table 3.4. Likely ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) Level Based Upon ACT Composite Score¹

Student Group	ACT NCRC Level	N	%	Average Composite
State	Platinum	944	18	29.5
	Gold	1,661	31	23.8
	Silver	1,909	36	19.1
	Bronze	709	13	15.0
	Needs Improvement	54	1	11.6
National	Platinum	303,094	18	30.2
	Gold	371,036	22	23.8
	Silver	498,074	30	18.9
	Bronze	403,248	24	14.6
	Needs Improvement	95,045	6	11.4

¹ The ACT Composite scores associated with at least a 50% chance of earning each ACT NCRC level or higher are: 13 for Bronze, 17 for Silver, 22 for Gold, and 27 for Platinum. Based on those cut scores, students who earned an ACT Composite score of less than 13 are classified as 'Needs improvement' as they are unlikely to obtain an ACT NCRC. Students with an ACT Composite score of 13 to 16 are classified as 'Bronze' as they are likely to obtain a Bronze NCRC, 17 to 21 as 'Silver', 22 to 26 as 'Gold', and 27 or above as 'Platinum'.

Table 3.5. College Readiness Benchmark Percent and Average ACT Scores by Overall High School Curriculum

Student Group	Curriculum Taken ¹	N	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite ⁴		STEM	
			%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg
State	Core or More ²	4,495	71	21.2	53	22.0	56	22.8	48	22.4	34	22.2	25	22.4
	Less than Core	605	49	18.5	33	19.7	39	20.5	27	20.2	17	19.9	12	20.2
	Missing ³	177	25	15.1	17	17.1	21	17.8	12	17.6	8	17.0	7	17.6
National	Core or More	928,969	71	21.9	49	21.7	55	23.0	46	22.1	35	22.3	27	22.2
	Less than Core	316,044	47	18.3	27	18.9	35	19.7	26	19.2	18	19.2	13	19.3
	Missing	425,484	37	16.5	20	17.9	28	18.4	21	18.1	13	17.9	9	18.3

¹ "Curriculum Taken" reflects overall high school curriculum in this table.

² "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

³ Zero years or no coursework information reported in one or more content areas.

⁴ Composite College Readiness Benchmark % results reflect students who met all four subject-area benchmarks.

Table 3.6. College Readiness Benchmark Percent and Average ACT Scores by Content-Specific Curriculum

Student Group	Curriculum Taken ¹	English			Mathematics			Reading			Science		
		N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg
State	Core or More ²	4,930	69	21.0	4,960	51	21.9	5,003	55	22.6	4,840	46	22.2
	Less than Core	175	53	18.3	142	12	17.0	104	42	21.1	266	30	20.4
	Missing ³	172	23	15.0	175	17	17.1	170	21	17.7	171	11	17.5
National	Core or More	1,187,829	66	21.2	1,190,473	45	21.2	1,110,515	52	22.4	1,078,635	44	21.9
	Less than Core	72,962	34	16.0	63,026	8	16.1	143,537	36	19.8	174,503	20	18.3
	Missing	409,706	38	16.6	416,998	20	17.9	416,445	28	18.4	417,359	21	18.1

¹ "Curriculum Taken" reflects content-specific curriculum in this table.

² "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English or three or more years of math, social studies, or natural science, respectively.

For instance, Reading "Core or More" results correspond to students taking three or more years of social studies, regardless of courses taken in other content areas.

³ Zero years or no coursework information reported in the specified content area.

Table 3.7. College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) Percent and Average ACT Scores by Common Course Patterns

Course Pattern	State				National			
	N	Percent Taking Pattern	Avg ACT English	Percent Who Met Benchmark	N	Percent Taking Pattern	Avg ACT English	Percent Who Met Benchmark
ENGLISH COURSE PATTERN								
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, & Other English	1,483	28	21.9	74	257,237	15	22.2	72
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	3,447	65	20.6	67	930,592	56	21.0	65
Less than 4 years of English	175	3	18.3	53	72,962	4	16.0	34
Zero years / no English courses reported	172	3	15.0	23	409,706	25	16.6	38
MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN								
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	212	4	24.1	69	70,252	4	23.2	62
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	382	7	22.4	58	94,371	6	21.5	51
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	243	5	20.4	40	62,504	4	18.8	26
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	1,146	22	21.4	48	248,009	15	19.1	28
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	1,893	36	23.8	68	500,040	30	23.9	64
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	760	14	18.2	18	142,387	9	16.7	9
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	324	6	20.2	36	72,910	4	19.5	32
Less than 3 years of Math	142	3	17.0	12	63,026	4	16.1	8
Zero years / no Math courses reported	175	3	17.1	17	416,998	25	17.9	20
SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN								
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	20	0	23.4	65	36,866	2	22.5	52
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	3,698	70	22.9	57	630,097	38	22.9	55
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	80	2	21.0	36	87,562	5	20.0	37
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	1,205	23	21.8	47	355,990	21	22.0	49
Less than 3 years of Social Science	104	2	21.1	42	143,537	9	19.8	36
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	170	3	17.7	21	416,445	25	18.4	28
NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN								
Gen Sci ¹ , Bio, Chem, & Phys	2,218	42	22.9	51	535,756	32	22.6	50
Bio, Chem, Phys	689	13	23.5	57	159,423	10	23.6	56
Gen Sci ¹ , Bio, Chem	1,798	34	21.0	36	347,034	21	20.3	32
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	135	3	21.3	33	36,422	2	19.0	24
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	266	5	20.4	30	174,503	10	18.3	20
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	171	3	17.5	11	417,359	25	18.1	21

¹Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.

Table 3.8. College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) Percent and Average ACT Scores for Gender by Common Course Patterns

Course Pattern	Males				Females				Other Responses ¹			
	N	Percent	ACT English	% Who Met Benchmark	N	Percent	ACT English	% Who Met Benchmark	N	Percent	ACT English	% Who Met Benchmark
ENGLISH COURSE PATTERN												
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, & Other English	552	24	22.0	75	928	31	21.9	74	3	30	21.0	33
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	1,553	69	20.2	64	1,889	63	20.9	70	5	50	25.8	80
Less than 4 years of English	74	3	17.8	47	101	3	18.7	57	0	0	.	.
Zero years / no English courses reported	80	4	14.8	20	90	3	15.2	26	2	20	15.5	50
MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN												
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	96	4	24.8	69	116	4	23.5	69	0	0	.	.
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	137	6	23.3	70	244	8	21.8	51	1	10	23.0	100
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	99	4	20.8	44	144	5	20.1	36	0	0	.	.
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	422	19	22.5	59	722	24	20.7	42	2	20	19.5	0
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	897	40	24.5	72	994	33	23.1	64	2	20	27.0	100
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	320	14	18.6	23	437	15	17.8	14	3	30	19.3	33
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	144	6	20.2	38	180	6	20.2	35	0	0	.	.
Less than 3 years of Math	62	3	17.5	16	80	3	16.7	9	0	0	.	.
Zero years / no Math courses reported	82	4	17.3	18	91	3	17.0	16	2	20	14.5	0
SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN												
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	10	0	24.2	70	10	0	22.6	60	0	0	.	.
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	1,502	66	22.8	56	2,191	73	22.9	58	5	50	22.2	40
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	50	2	20.5	36	30	1	21.7	37	0	0	.	.
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	566	25	21.5	45	636	21	22.0	49	3	30	26.0	67
Less than 3 years of Social Science	51	2	21.7	45	53	2	20.5	40	0	0	.	.
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	80	4	17.8	20	88	3	17.7	22	2	20	16.0	0
NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN												
Gen Sci ² , Bio, Chem, & Phys	1,056	47	23.4	55	1,158	38	22.3	48	4	40	23.0	50
Bio, Chem, Phys	287	13	24.0	57	401	13	23.2	56	1	10	16.0	0
Gen Sci ¹ , Bio, Chem	651	29	21.3	41	1,147	38	20.8	34	0	0	.	.
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	79	3	21.9	41	55	2	20.3	22	1	10	35.0	100
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	106	5	20.6	30	158	5	20.2	29	2	20	25.5	50
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	80	4	17.7	11	89	3	17.4	10	2	20	15.5	0

¹ 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

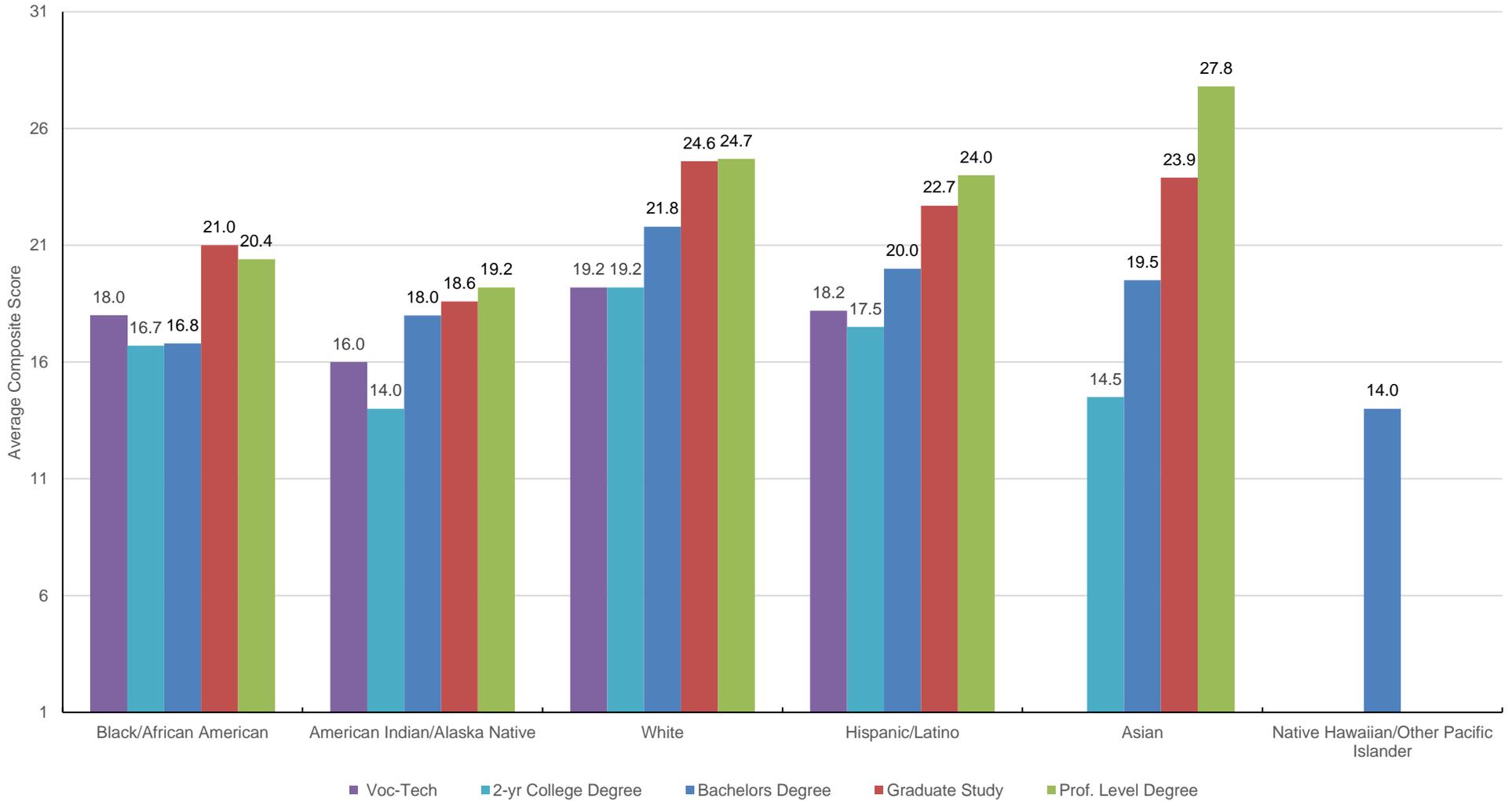
² Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.

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Section IV

Career and Educational Aspirations

Figure 4.1. Average ACT Composite Scores by Race and Student Postsecondary Aspirations*



*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and postsecondary aspiration in which one or both indicators are missing.

Table 4.1. Distribution of Planned Educational Majors for All Students by College Plans

Planned Educational Major	All Students			Plan on 2 Years or Less of College			Plan on 4 Years or More of College		
	N ¹	Percent ²	Avg ACT Comp	N	Percent	Avg ACT Comp	N	Percent	Avg ACT Comp
Agriculture & Natural Resources Conservation	215	4	20.8	43	9	18.8	161	4	21.4
Architecture	76	1	22.3	11	2	20.1	64	1	22.8
Area, Ethnic, & Multidisciplinary Studies	7	0	21.1	2	0	17.0	5	0	22.8
Arts: Visual & Performing	201	4	22.1	18	4	19.2	170	4	22.5
Business	369	7	21.2	37	8	19.3	320	7	21.5
Communications	39	1	21.3	3	1	18.3	34	1	21.5
Community, Family, & Personal Services	94	2	19.7	17	4	18.6	72	2	19.9
Computer Science & Mathematics	202	4	23.7	13	3	17.5	183	4	24.3
Education	377	7	20.9	7	1	18.7	354	8	21.0
Engineering	326	6	24.2	19	4	20.2	300	7	24.5
Engineering Technology & Drafting	49	1	21.2	17	4	19.4	27	1	22.3
English & Foreign Languages	49	1	24.8	0	0	.	46	1	25.3
Health Administration & Assisting	167	3	19.2	31	6	17.5	130	3	19.7
Health Sciences & Technologies	1,157	22	22.0	91	19	18.9	1,034	24	22.3
Philosophy, Religion, & Theology	12	0	23.4	1	0	22.0	10	0	24.1
Repair, Production, & Construction	106	2	19.3	72	15	18.8	30	1	20.6
Sciences: Biological & Physical	378	7	24.4	6	1	17.2	367	8	24.6
Social Sciences & Law	315	6	21.9	9	2	21.1	297	7	21.9
Undecided	976	18	21.6	77	16	19.0	788	18	22.1
No Response	162	3	16.9	4	1	15.3	7	0	21.7

¹2-Year and 4-Year "N" counts do not reflect "Missing" and "Other" college plans, therefore they may not add up to the N count for All Students.

²Percent of students tested within College Plan groups (All Students, 2-Year, 4-Year).

Table 4.2. Average ACT Composite Scores for Racial/Ethnic Groups by Post-Secondary Educational Aspirations

Educational Degree Aspirations	All Racial/Ethnic Groups Combined		Black/African American		American Indian/ Alaska Native		White		Hispanic/Latino	
	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average
Voc-Tech	136	19.2	1	18.0	6	16.0	115	19.2	6	18.2
2-yr College Degree	342	18.7	7	16.7	12	14.0	290	19.2	13	17.5
Bachelors Degree	2,997	21.4	54	16.8	86	18.0	2,529	21.8	123	20.0
Graduate Study	497	24.5	5	21.0	7	18.6	432	24.6	15	22.7
Prof. Level Degree	905	24.5	15	20.4	18	19.2	755	24.7	30	24.0
Other	57	18.3	1	25.0	4	14.3	42	18.9	4	15.5
No Response	343	18.8	3	14.3	107	14.9	148	21.5	11	18.1

Educational Degree Aspirations	All Racial/Ethnic Groups Combined		Asian		Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander		Two or more races		Prefer not to respond/ No Response	
	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average
Voc-Tech	136	19.2	0	.	0	.	5	21.4	3	21.3
2-yr College Degree	342	18.7	4	14.5	0	.	12	17.7	4	18.0
Bachelors Degree	2,997	21.4	40	19.5	2	14.0	125	20.2	38	21.9
Graduate Study	497	24.5	9	23.9	0	.	17	23.7	12	28.1
Prof. Level Degree	905	24.5	24	27.8	0	.	43	22.5	20	23.6
Other	57	18.3	1	14.0	0	.	3	21.7	2	14.0
No Response	343	18.8	12	19.3	0	.	17	18.4	45	19.9

Table 4.3. Students' Score Report Preferences at Time of Testing

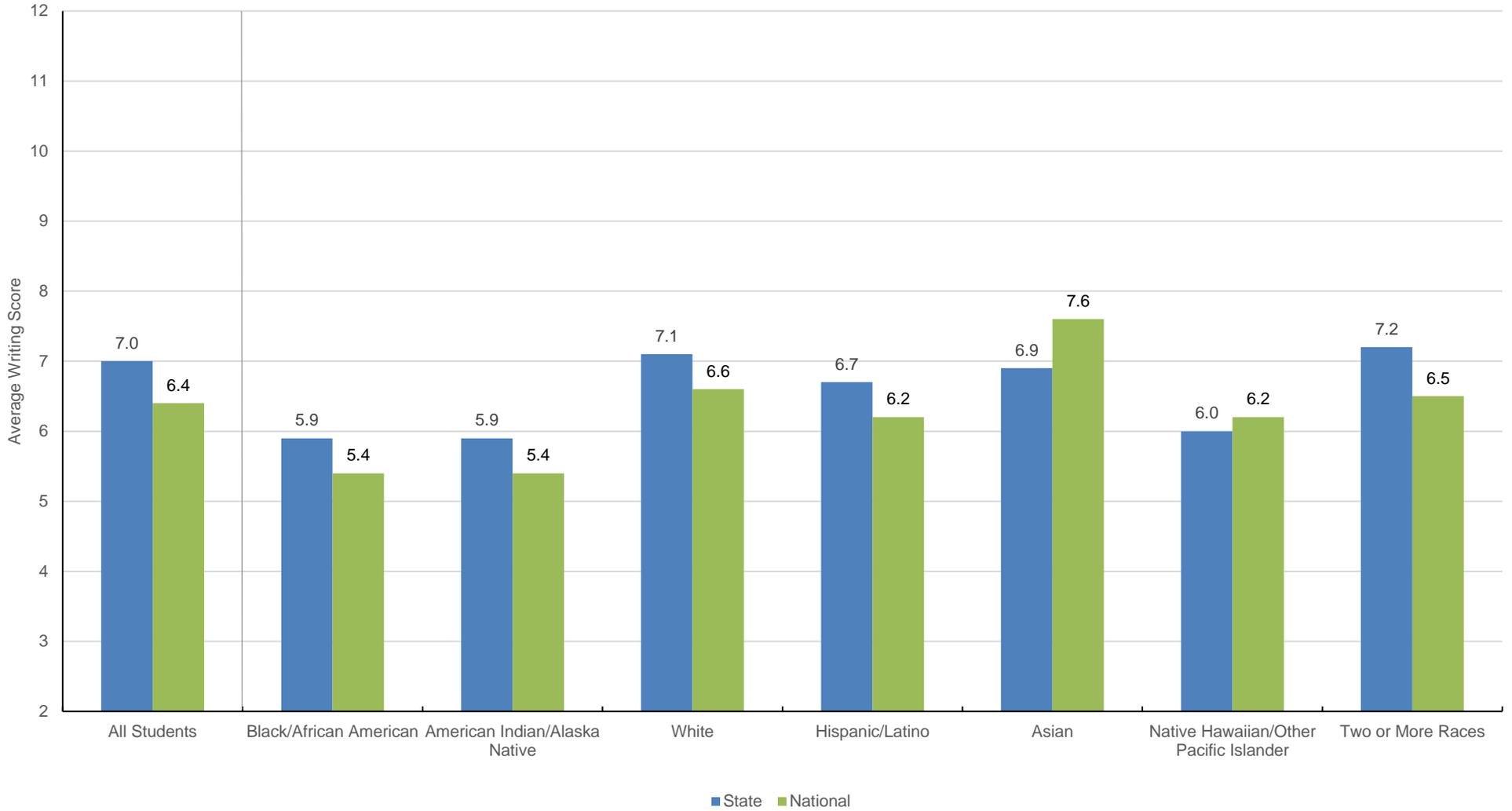
Name	State	Number of Students			Percent of Students in College Readiness Standards Ranges						
		Total	1st Choice	2nd-6th Choice	01-12	13-15	16-19	20-23	24-27	28-32	33-36
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	1,713	847	866	0	6	24	33	23	13	1
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA	South Dakota	1,276	452	824	0	5	25	31	26	12	1
BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	477	165	312	1	8	34	31	19	7	0
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	389	160	229	1	8	25	34	20	12	1
AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	374	100	274	1	3	14	29	29	22	2
SOUTH DAKOTA SCH OF MINES/TECH	South Dakota	365	147	218	0	1	11	26	33	24	5
DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	358	153	205	0	8	27	29	24	11	1
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES	Minnesota	305	74	231	0	2	11	25	30	28	4
LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	299	125	174	1	15	38	28	14	3	0
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT LINCOLN	Nebraska	299	66	233	0	1	13	25	33	24	3
UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS	South Dakota	298	57	241	0	10	30	25	24	10	1
SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	288	109	179	2	18	37	29	10	3	0
MITCHELL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	206	72	134	1	11	49	26	11	1	0
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	North Dakota	180	52	128	0	2	22	33	28	13	1
DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	173	61	112	1	7	37	31	19	5	0
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO	Minnesota	125	21	104	0	5	25	34	22	14	0
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	Arizona	94	25	69	1	6	21	38	21	12	0
WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	89	36	53	2	17	36	33	9	2	1
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	Iowa	80	12	68	0	5	14	20	30	26	5
NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER	Indiana	71	30	41	0	6	14	30	39	10	1
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	Iowa	71	11	60	0	1	13	30	32	20	4
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-MORRIS	Minnesota	65	22	43	0	6	45	18	17	14	0
MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE	South Dakota	64	13	51	2	3	31	33	22	9	0
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING	Wyoming	62	15	47	0	2	19	35	32	11	0
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY	Colorado	61	15	46	0	5	18	26	36	13	2
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY	Nebraska	56	12	44	0	2	9	30	21	32	5
CHADRON STATE COLLEGE	Nebraska	55	21	34	4	15	31	25	22	4	0
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA	North Dakota	55	14	41	0	4	18	33	35	9	2
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY	Arizona	53	17	36	0	2	32	45	17	4	0
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN	Montana	51	14	37	0	2	10	16	41	31	0
All Other Institutions		2,216	567	1,649	1	6	20	26	22	19	5
Total		10,268	3,485	6,783	1	6	24	29	23	14	2

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Section V

Optional Writing Test Results

Figure 5.1. Average ACT Writing Scores by Race/Ethnicity*



*Missing columns reflect race/ethnicity groupings that are missing.

Table 5.1. Average ACT English Language Arts Constituent Scores by Race/Ethnicity and Gender¹ for Students Who Took ACT Writing

	N		Average ACT Scores					
			English		Reading		Writing	
			State	National	State	National	State	National
All Students	624	678,906	23.0	19.7	24.8	21.2	7.0	6.4
Black/African American	15	74,291	18.7	15.1	19.3	16.8	5.9	5.4
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	7,366	16.2	14.7	19.4	16.8	5.9	5.4
White	482	307,363	23.7	21.4	25.5	22.9	7.1	6.6
Hispanic/Latino	34	141,739	21.1	17.2	23.4	18.9	6.7	6.2
Asian	15	45,859	23.3	25.2	24.4	25.5	6.9	7.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	3,097	12.0	15.6	12.0	17.2	6.0	6.2
Two or More Races	39	36,155	22.1	20.1	23.8	21.7	7.2	6.5
Prefer not/No Response	19	63,036	22.5	19.2	22.6	20.7	7.4	6.2
Males	246	317,885	22.9	19.2	25.0	20.8	6.8	6.1
Females	375	349,314	23.0	20.3	24.7	21.6	7.1	6.7
Other Responses	3	11,707	33.3	16.1	30.7	18.0	9.3	5.5

Table 5.2. Average ACT English Language Arts Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity and Gender¹ for Students Who Took ACT Writing

	N		Average ACT Scores			
			Average ELA Score		Percent Who Met ELA Benchmark	
			State	National	State	National
All Students	624	678,906	22.2	19.1	69	45
Black/African American	15	74,291	17.7	14.9	33	18
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	7,366	17.0	14.9	21	15
White	482	307,363	22.7	20.5	74	55
Hispanic/Latino	34	141,739	20.7	17.3	65	32
Asian	15	45,859	22.0	23.7	60	72
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	3,097	13.0	16.2	0	24
Two or More Races	39	36,155	21.8	19.6	62	47
Prefer not/No Response	19	63,036	21.7	18.5	47	41
Males	246	317,885	22.0	18.4	67	41
Females	375	349,314	22.3	19.8	70	49
Other Responses	3	11,707	29.7	15.8	100	24

¹ 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

